

supporting local charities, providing care for families in need, and have generously contributed towards relief efforts at home and in countries throughout the world. To say the least, the Scotts Hill Lions Club has undoubtedly lived out their club's motto, "We serve." I commend the members of the Scotts Hill Lions Club and encourage others to follow their example of dedication and service. Their hard work will not only be felt locally but around the world for years to come.

Please join me in honoring the Scotts Hill Lions Club, President Dan Brigrance, Secretary Pattie Stewart, and other officers and members in wishing them the best on this well-deserved anniversary.

HONORING JACQUELINE KONOPKA

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, volunteers who work on behalf of public safety officers thicken and strengthen the Thin Blue Line.

Tens of thousands of police officers daily risk the ultimate sacrifice in order to serve a greater good. These public servants have a friend behind the scenes working on their behalf in the Law Enforcement Assistance Connection Inc.

Today, I call the House's attention to Jacqueline Konopka, a 25-year-old constituent from Newnan in Georgia's Third Congressional District. Jackie has gone above and beyond to aid the Law Enforcement Assistance Connection.

A flight attendant for AirTran Airways, Jackie became involved with LEAC after meeting the organization's founder and leader on one of her flights. Terry Hunt's description of his work on behalf of law enforcement on that fateful flight won over a new and tireless volunteer. But Konopka says she's an easy sell when it comes to aiding public safety officials. "As a flight attendant," she says, "public safety is my No. 1 priority."

Today, Hunt sees Konopka's work as integral to his organization's mission: "Jacqueline Konopka has shown me the true meaning of life and inspired me to achieve and overcome personal and professional obstacles. A loyal friend and adviser, Jackie is someone I admire for her perseverance, leadership skills, drive and dedication in all she has done and continues to do. She is extremely special to me—in fact, it's not a stretch to say that had it not been for her willingness and selflessness to advance LEAC's goals, this organization would not function."

LEAC takes part in various activities to promote the welfare of law enforcement authorities, including the Annual Benefit for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund Gala in Washington, the Annual Charitable Golf Classic to support the Law Enforcement Assistance Connection; and A Matter of Honor Annual Golf Event and Gala for the National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington.

Konopka helps plan and organize these events, but she describes her efforts on behalf of the LEAC as mainly "serving as a support for Terry." Nevertheless, she's breaking new

ground on her own by spearheading a "night out" for victims of violent crime. Konopka says she wants the event, planned for 2009 in Washington, to call attention to the fact that 1 out of 3 in this country are sexually assaulted at some point in their lives.

Madam Speaker, I hope the House will join me in thanking and congratulating Jacqueline Konopka and the Law Enforcement Assistance Connection Inc. for all that they give and all that they do to support the public servants who do so much for all Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RAMAPO COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS DINNER 2008

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize four individuals who have been named by the Ramapo College Foundation Board of Governors as the 2008 Distinguished Citizens. This honor highlights their personal and professional commitment to advance higher education and their significant service to the community.

James E. Jaworski, Esq.; Patricia B. Shrader, Esq.; Drew Nieporent, and Edward P. Wallace, Jr. each support Ramapo College in their own unique ways while exemplifying the school's commitment to high standards of educational excellence.

In addition, these individuals are recognized for their dedication and unfailing commitment to our community. Our communities are only as strong as the people and organizations that are willing to put their time, effort, and energy into building them. I applaud Ramapo College for honoring these individuals and, in doing so, the true spirit of community that helps to make our country a symbol of strength and hope worldwide.

Ramapo College of New Jersey is located in Mahwah, New Jersey. Designated as "New Jersey's Public Liberal Arts College," Ramapo is a comprehensive institution of higher education whose faculty and staff dedicate themselves to the promotion of teaching and learning within a strong liberal arts based curriculum. Its curricular emphasis includes the liberal arts and sciences, social sciences, fine and performing arts, and the professional programs within a residential and sustainable living and learning environment.

It is an honor to represent such fine people and institutions in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2008 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my Virginia colleagues FRANK WOLF and JAMES MORAN to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Cham-

ber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that can be awarded to a public safety officer: the Life Saving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor.

It is with great pride that we enter into the record the names of the recipients of the 2008 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Receiving the Certificate of Valor: Acting Technician Ronald S. Seghetti, Firefighter Jason P. Kelly; the Gold Medal: Lieutenant Danny R. Urps, Master Technician John F. Linhart, Master Technician Joseph K. Swift, Firefighter Medic William F. Ward; the Silver Medal: Captain Richard C. Smith, Firefighter John A. Fleming; the Bronze Medal: Firefighter George H. Moore, Battalion Chief Floyd L. Ellmore, Firefighter Richard M. Tamillow.

Madam Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Despite the fact that 44 million Americans suffer from mental health disorders, a majority of health care plans continue to treat mental health differently than physical health. These plans discriminate against those with mental health disorders by imposing financial limitations and treatment restrictions on mental health and addiction care. Over 80 percent of Americans who need mental health treatment do not seek it because of the restrictions or the cost. This is unacceptable. Americans with mental health disorders need and deserve the same level of coverage as those who suffer from physical disorders, and with the passage of this bill, we can help give them that coverage.

This bill closes the loophole that has allowed plans to charge patients more and impose additional limits for mental health care. Efforts to weaken the bill by allowing plans to determine which mental health benefits to cover or preempting State laws providing stronger mental health protections will allow discrimination to continue against the millions of Americans who need our support in their efforts to seek treatment.

I urge everyone to vote for H.R. 1424, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act, and these people whose lives depend on the treatment they need and deserve. Members of Congress have mental health parity. It's high time we provide parity to the 44 million Americans who need it.